

This legislation purports to allow the State of Arizona to protect the Second Amendment rights of its citizens, barring them from compliance with any restrictions or infringements that the federal government enacts as federal law.

Arizonans value sovereign state authority to the highest regard. Any infringements on their constitutionally protected rights are dangerous and federal overreach. I applaud Arizona HB 2111 and its clear purpose of refusing to allow any federal overreach into the state and its citizens.

The people of Arizona are strong supporters of the Second Amendment and the Constitution's clear permission of allowing American citizens to keep and bear arms. As such, this legislation is a great movement for the citizens of the great state of Arizona. I look forward to the day that Governor Ducey signs this legislation into official Arizona law.

Madam Speaker, Arizona's state motto is "Ditat Deus," meaning "God Enriches". I hold this phrase dear to my heart, and I know the citizens of Arizona do also. Through God's enrichment, I'm confident the governments at the local, state, and federal level will see any infringements on constitutionally-protected rights as dangerous and un-American.

I pray for the future of this nation every day. I believe that Americans have the right to keep and bear arms. This legislation is a great step forward for the people of Arizona and their rights that are protected under the Arizona Constitution and the Constitution of the United States.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF BILLY ALEXANDER

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Billy Alexander, a dedicated public servant who

worked tirelessly on behalf of childhood education in West Contra Costa County and throughout California.

Billy and his wife, Barbara, advocated for issues that affected children across our state. After Billy served in the Korean War as a member of the U.S. Army, Billy and Barbara returned to California and settled in Richmond to raise their family. Parents of eight children, the Alexanders took a direct role in the education process by first joining the Parent Teacher Association (PTA). This led to them participating in junior high and high school PTAs and School Advisory Councils, where they established themselves as a collective force for good in our community. Billy and Barbara would eventually become co-Chairs of the District Advisory Committee and spent 27 years in that role.

Billy and Barbara also displayed their knowledge of and passion for childhood education on the state and national levels. They participated in developing the California Strategic Plan for Parental Involvement in Education, and Billy served on the California Committee of Practitioners, which helped develop Title I plans for the state. He was appointed to the California Department of Education's Council of Black Affairs and to the Committee to Revise Title 5. Additionally, in 1977, the Alexanders won a California court case requiring school districts to ensure federal and state funds designated for Title I were actually used for that purpose. On a national level, Billy and Barbara served on the Board of Directors for the National Coalition of Title I/Chapter I Parents and on the National Council on Educating Black Children.

The Alexanders dedicated their lives to serving the needs of children in an effort to promote equitable educational opportunities. They touched the lives of countless families and created numerous programs benefiting the children and families of Richmond, including Vision of Hope—a weekend tutoring program that expanded to Summer of Hope, which operated as an alternative to summer school. They also created the Mother Hen/

Chanticleer Awards to honor individuals who exceptionally served West Contra Costa Unified School District students. From helping parents become better advocates for their children to gifting books to students, the Alexanders worked diligently to create better and more equal opportunities for disadvantaged youth.

Billy and Barbara were married for 44 years until Barbara passed in 2001. Sadly, Billy passed away in November of 2020. Billy was a beloved resident of Richmond and a tremendous advocate for children and he will be missed. Please join me in honoring him for his many contributions to our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF DEREK
MARTIN

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Derek Martin on receiving the Blair County Chamber of Commerce's Donna D. Gority Servant Leadership Award, which recognizes individuals who serve the Blair County community through their workplace.

As the COVID-19 pandemic changed life across America, Derek led Altoona Curve staff members in assisting businesses and individuals who were hardest hit in Blair County. He mentored others and offered support and encouragement to those who needed it most. Despite growing challenges, Derek continued his work to help our community weather this storm.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Derek on this accomplishment and thank him for his service to the Blair County community.